

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 02363 241206Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 USIE-00 /023 W
-----010391 241209Z /23

O R 241030Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0070

UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 2363

FOR: IAA, IOR/M, IBS & IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, MA
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SOMALI PRESIDENT TO MADAGASCAR;
POSSIBLE MENGHISTU VISIT'

REF: ANTANANARIVO 2360

1. ANTANANARIVO'S DAILY MADAGASCAR MATIN HEADLINED REPORT OF SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE'S "SIX HOUR SURPRISE" VISIT TO MADAGASCAR IN TODAY'S (DECEMBER 24) EDITION. IT COVERED BARRE'S ARRIVAL, WHERE HE WAS MET BY PRESIDENT DIDIER RATSIRAKA AND OTHER MALAGASY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND HIS DEPARTURE SIX HOURS LATER.

2. THE FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY REPORTED BARRE'S AIRPORT ARRIVAL SPEECH (USINFO'ED ON DECEMBER 23; MADAGASCAR MATIN ACCOUNT DID NOT MENTION BARRE UTTERANCE OF A HOPE THAT THE "OTHER PARTY (ETHIOPIA)" WOULD ALSO COME TO MADAGASCAR, AS REPORTED IN DEC. 23 USINFO).

3. MADAGASCAR MATIN REPORTED THAT BARRE LEFT ANTANANARIVO AFTER FIVE AND ONE-HALF HOURS OF TALKS WITH RATSIRAKA. IT SAID
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THE SOMALI PRESIDENT TERMED THE TALKS "FRATERNAL" AND THAT THEY HAD TOUCHED ON "THE GREAT QUESTIONS OF TODAY NOTABLY CONCERNING EASTERN AFRICA, THE SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT, SOMALI-MALAGASY RELATIONS". ONE AGAIN BARRE PRAISED PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA'S MEDIATION ATTEMPTS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA.

4. THE SAME EDITION OF MADAGASCAR MATIN CARRIED THIS BRIEF REPORT:

"THE PROTOCOL (SECTION) OF THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENCY OF MADAGASCAR INFORMED US LAST EVENING THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO SEND (THIS) MORNING A REPORTER AND PHOTOGRAPHER TO IVATO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. WITHOUT ANY OTHER COMMENT OR PRECISION. ONE CAN REASONABLY CONCLUDE THAT COLONEL MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM, ETHIOPIAN CHIEF OF STATE, HAS ALSO DECIDED TO RESPOND TO PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA'S INVITATION AND THAT HIS PRESENCE IS AWAITED TODAY IN ANTANANARIVO."

5. TODAY'S 12:30 MADAGASCAR RADIO NEWS REPORT MADE NO MENTION OF AN ARRIVAL OF THE ETHIOPIAN PRESIDENT. MCCOO, ACTING

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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